

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 1, please rewrite the first paragraph of the application to read as follows:

This application is a continuation of U.S. patent application S/N 10/256,671, filed September 27, 2002, which is a continuation of U.S. patent application S/N 09/859,694, filed May 17, 2001, which is a continuation of U.S. patent application S/N 08/347,475, which was the National Stage of International Application No. PCT/US93/05731, filed June 15, 1993, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. patent application S/N 07/898,907, filed June 15, 1992, the entire ~~disclosure~~ disclosures of which is are incorporated herein by reference.

At page 7, please rewrite the paragraph beginning at line 20 as follows:

FIGURES ~~25~~ 26 and ~~26~~ 27 are side views of the tilt control mechanism showing a forward tilt limiter mechanism.

At page 9, please rewrite the paragraph beginning at line 14 as follows:

In a preferred embodiment of the invention, the linkage assembly 40 includes a pair of first links 50 pivotally attached to upwardly extending side portions 52 of a seat frame 33 at pivot points 54 to define a pivot axis at substantially the hip joints of a user. A pair of second links 56 each have a substantially straight first section 58 to which the first links 50 are fixedly attached and a second section 60 angled downwardly from the first section 58. An upwardly extending rear end portion 62 of each first section 58 is connected to a frame 64 of the backrest 34, and an inwardly extending front end portion 66 of each second section 60 is pivotally mounted to a forward portion of the tilt control housing 38. Thus, the rigidly connected first links 50 and second links 56 form a forward link member and act as ~~two bars~~ one bar of a four bar linkage which creates an effective pivot point 68 at substantially the ankles of the user having feet resting on the floor 46.

At page 9, please rewrite the paragraph beginning at line 30 as follows:

As best shown in FIGS. 8-10, the seat 32 and backrest 34 both pivot about the hip pivot points 54 while simultaneously tilting rearwardly. To limit tilting of the seat 32, linkage assembly 40 includes a pair of restraining links 70 which form a four bar linkage in conjunction with the first links 50 and second links 56, the seat 32 and the tilt control housing 38. The restraining links 70 have one end 72 pivotally attached to a front portion of the tilt control housing 38 rearwardly and below the attachment of the end portions 66 of the links 56 to the housing 38. Another end 74 of the restraining links 70 is pivotally attached to a corresponding clevis 76 extending downwardly from a rear edge of the seat 32. Thus, the seat 32 pivots about hip pivot point 54 since it is pivotally mounted to the first links 50, and the backrest 34 pivots about the same pivot point 54 since the second links 56 are fixedly connected to the first links 50. In addition, the seat 32 and backrest 34 simultaneously pivot about pivot point 66, and the restraining links 70 cause the seat 32 to pivot about the effective pivot axis 68 at the ankles of a user.

At page 13, please rewrite the paragraph beginning at line 9 as follows:

An inner telescoping tube 126 is slidably positioned within the intermediate tube 114 and has a top portion which is mounted to the tilt control housing 38. The inner tube 126 slidably bears against the upper section 122 of the intermediate tube 114, and when locked in a desired position, the overlapping area of the inner tube 126 and intermediate tube upper section 122 further offsets any moments acting on the tubes to support a user sitting on the chair 30. In addition, the moment acting on the tubes is minimized because an upper edge 128 of the intermediate tube ~~126~~ 114 is closer to the tilt housing 38 than conventional support columns, thus decreasing the moment arm acting on the tubes. To limit the upward travel of the inner tube 126, a retaining collar 130 is mounted to a bottom edge of the inner tube 126 and slidably bears against the lower section 120 of the intermediate tube 114. The retaining collar 130 also carries the intermediate tube 114 therewith when the inner tube 126 moves upwardly.

At page 16, please rewrite the paragraph beginning at line 3 as follows:

Another aspect of the embodiment shown in FIGS. 12A and 12B is a frusto-conically shaped mounting member 127 attached to an upper portion of the outer tube 110. The outer surface of the mounting member 127 has a relatively large taper and mates with a frusto-conically shaped cavity 129 formed in the pedestal or support stand 44 which also has a relatively large taper. Preferably, the cavity 129 is formed in a center portion 131 of the pedestal 44 and is defined by a hub 133 extending downwardly therefrom. The tapered mounting member 127 fits within an upper portion of the cavity 129, and a lower portion of the outer tube 110 bears against an inner wall 135 of the cavity 129 at a lower portion thereof, which provides additional lateral support for the column 42. Typically, the outer tubes of conventional support columns have a cylindrical top portion extending out of a pedestal and a slightly tapered bottom portion mounted directly to a similarly shaped cavity in the pedestal. If the bottom portion of the outer tube does not fit exactly within the cavity when assembled to the pedestal, the slight tapers may prevent the outer tube from dropping entirely within the cavity which raises the minimum height of the seat. Thus, the slightly tapered portion of conventional outer tubes typically require a tight tolerance in order to properly fit within a cavity in the pedestal. Such tight tolerances are difficult to maintain and costly. The mounting member 127 and cavity 129 obviates this problem by providing a larger taper which allows the outer tube 110 to drop entirely within the cavity 129. In addition, the outer tube ~~100~~ 110 does not require as tight a tolerance since the upper portion is not mounted directly to the pedestal 44.

At page 23, please rewrite the paragraph beginning at line 6 as follows:

An adjustable rearward tilt limiter mechanism 290 is also provided to vary the maximum rearward tilting of the seat 32 and backrest 34. As best shown in FIG. 24, a cam member 292 and gear 294 are mounted to a rod 296 which is rotatably mounted to the side wall 252 of housing 38. The cam member 292 preferably has a plurality of concave surfaces 298 formed in an outer edge 300 thereof. An arm 302 is fixedly mounted to the axle 250 and has a convex follower member 304 attached to an end

thereof. The arm 302 extends rearwardly from the axle 250 such that the follower member 304 is in operable engagement with one of the concave surfaces 298 of the cam member 292 when a user sits on the seat 32. As viewed in FIGS. 24 and 25, the maximum clockwise rotation of the axle 250 and therefore the maximum rearward tilt position of the seat 32 and backrest 34 is determined by the position of the cam member 292. To adjust the position of the cam member 292, a pie-shaped member 306 is rotatably attached to the side wall 252 of the housing 38. The member 306 has a plurality of teeth 308 on a circular edge portion thereof which mesh with the gear 294. A spring 310 is attached to the pie-shaped member 306 and the side wall 252 of the housing 38 to bias rotation of the member 306 in a clockwise direction. A cable 312 is attached to the member 306 opposite the spring 310 and guided within a guide member ~~314~~ 315 which is attached to the side wall 252 of the housing 38. In operation, the cable 312 is moved axially a desired amount to rotate the pie-shaped member 306, which in turn meshes with the gear 294 to rotate the cam member 292 to a desired position. When the chair is tilted rearwardly, one of the concave surfaces 298 will act as a stop for the follower member 304 to limit the rearward tilting of the seat 32 and chair 34. As shown in dotted lines in FIG. 25, the cam member 292 and arm 302 can be rotated to lock the seat 32 and backrest 34 in a forward tilt position.